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CIA/OCI/IM 0406-75 SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN  
LEBANON SECRET/SENSITIVE

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01 OF 01

SECRET SENSITIVE

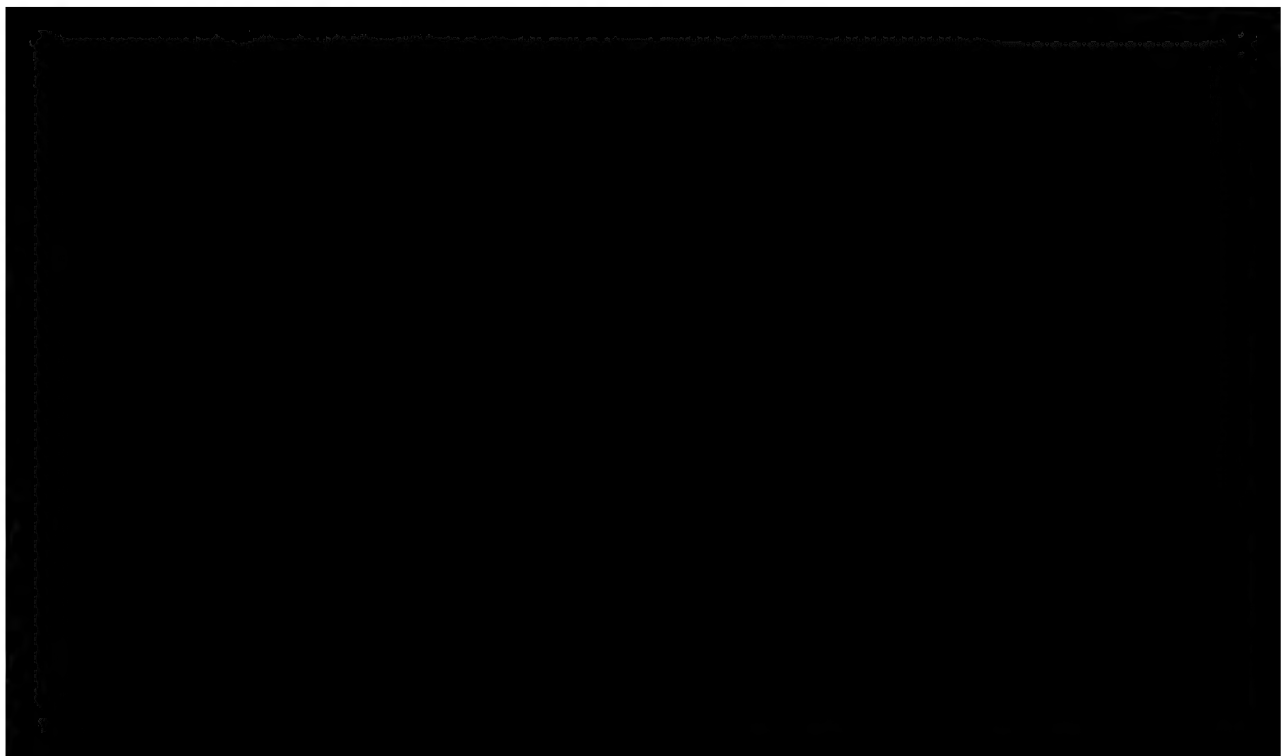
OCI No. 0406/75

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
January 6, 1975

**MICROFILMED**

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Syrian Military Activity in Lebanon



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Although it is clear that Palestinian forces in Lebanon have received additional weapons and equipment from Syria, we cannot confirm any recent movement into Lebanon by Syrian-based formations of the Palestine Liberation Army or Fatah's Yarmuk brigade.

SECRET SENSITIVE

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(unless impossible, insert date or event)	

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SECRET SENSITIVE

Movement of Fedayeen Forces

We have no information to confirm that elements of the Yarmuk force, most of which is based in Syria, have recently moved to Lebanon. Such movements have taken place in the past, however, notably during the fighting between the fedayeen and the Lebanese army during May 1973.

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[REDACTED] reported late last week that he had noticed an increase in activity by Syrian-controlled Saiga forces in Lebanon. During a mid-December visit to Sidon and Tyre he noticed--for the first time--a number of Saiga vehicles on the road. In addition, on January 3 he received a report of missile-carrying vehicles with Saiga markings in southern Lebanon, and over the past two weeks has heard reports of Saiga cargo vehicles in the vicinity of Palestinian camps in Beirut.

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Arms Deliveries to the Fedayeen

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[REDACTED] fedayeen forces in Lebanon have recently been strengthened by shipments of additional weapons from Syria. This has been confirmed [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] there are six APCs inside the Sabra/Shatila camp on the outskirts of Beirut, and the increased anti-aircraft fire directed at Israeli aircraft during their December attack on Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut can be taken as confirmation that there are now greater numbers of SA-7s and anti-aircraft guns available to the Palestinians.

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[REDACTED] these anti-aircraft weapons, particularly the SA-7s, are probably manned by Saiga forces, who operate them with Syrian guidance. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the SA-7s were controlled and maintained by Syrian army soldiers and elements of the Syrian-controlled Palestine Liberation Army. We have no information on how many Syrian soldiers were involved in these operations or whether they remain in Lebanon at this time.

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There is no doubt that these recently-acquired weapons come from Syria. According to reports [REDACTED] all of the trucks and missile-carrying vehicles observed have had Saiga markings. This indicates that they are, in fact, Syrian, as Saiga forces have never been known to have had any other source of supply. Some of the cargo trucks were observed to have been painted with Syrian army desert camouflage colors, although their drivers were in civilian clothes.

Movement of Syrian or PLA Forces

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We cannot confirm that two companies of the Palestine Liberation Army have entered Lebanon, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] four brigades of the regular Syrian army had been deployed to two locations in southern Lebanon to reinforce Syrian army units stationed on the slopes of Mount Hermon. These included one armored, one artillery, and two infantry brigades. This report, [REDACTED] has not been confirmed by any other source or collection method. Syrian units operated on Lebanese territory during and in the weeks immediately following the 1973 war, and a small group of Syrian officers was seized by the Israelis while touring the Lebanese border area in June 1973.

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[REDACTED] President Sadat, and the Jordanians, are apprehensive about Syria's intentions in southern Lebanon. Sadat's principal concern, according to this report, is that the Syrians will support fedayeen attacks on Israel out of frustration with their inability to make political or military progress on the Golan. The Jordanians and Egyptians fear that the fedayeen, who have nothing to lose by another war, could provoke the Israelis into a response that could drag all parties into another round of hostilities.

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